A BRIEF SKETCH

OF THE

Negotiations for Union

OF THE

Presbyterian Methodist and Congregational Churches in Canada

TOGETHER WITH THE

Official Report of the First Conference of the Three Union Committees.

Toronto, January, 1905.

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A SHORT HISTORY

OF THE

UNION MOVEMENT

The negotiations that have lately been entered into, looking to an organic union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in the Dominion of Canada, had their origin in the efforts that have been put forth during the last three years to prevent, as far as possible, any unseemly rivalry and any waste of men and means in the Mission work that is being carried on by these different Churches, especially in the newer districts of the country.

At the annual meeting of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in March, 1899, it was resolved to recommend the General Assembly to appoint a small committee to act in conjunction with similar committees that might be appointed by the supreme courts of other evangelical bodies in determining the proper course to be pursued in any alleged case of overlapping in Home Mission work.

This recommendation was acted upon by the General Assembly at its meeting in June, 1899, and a committee was appointed, consisting of Rev. Dr. Warden, Rev. Dr. E. D. McLaren, Rev. Dr. Somerville, Rev. J. W. Macmillan, and Messrs Robert Kilgour and John Penman, "to meet and confer with representatives from other evangelical Churches, having power to enter into any arrangement with them that will tend to bring about a more satisfactory state of things in our Home Mission Fields, so that the overlapping now complained of may be prevented."

The action taken by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was communicated to the authorities of the Methodist Church by Dr. Warden, the Convener of the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee; and the General Conference, acting on a memorial presented by N. W. Rowell, Esq., resolved:

> "That the General Board of Missions be authorized and directed to appoint a committee to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Presbyterian Church, with a view of devising a plan whereby Home Mission Work can be carried on in friendly co-operation."

In accordance with this resolution the General Board of Missions at a meeting held on the 26th of September, appointed the following commit-

tee: Rev. Dr. Carman, Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Rev. Dr. Potts, C. D. Massey, Esq., H. H. Fudger, Esq., and N W. Rowell, Esq., K.C.

These two committees met together in Toronto on the 6th of November, 1902, and on the 13th of February, 1903; on each occasion spending several hours in the consideration of various aspects of the problem of co-operation in Home Mission work.

The tone of these conferences was exceedingly gratifying, and at the close of the second conference it was felt that sufficient progress had been made in the eliciting of opinions and in the deepening of the spirit of mutual confidence, to warrant the joint committee in asking the Missionary Superintendents of the two Churches to meet with them, in order that some line of action might be decided upon that would tend to promote the spirit of fraternity and co-operation between the two bodies in mission work, especially in New Ontario, the Northwest and British Columbia.

A meeting was accordingly held on the 17th of March, at which all the Superintendents were present, when the practical difficulties in the way of co-operation were again discussed with the utmost frankness.

After a long and careful deliberation—extending over the greater part of the afternoon and evening—the following finding was unanimously adopted:

> "**Whereas,** overtures have proceeded from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the General Conference of the Methodist Church, affirming the desirability of fraternal co-operation between the two bodies, especially in Home Mission work, with a view to avoiding the unnecessary expenditure of missionary money, and the undue multiplication of agencies;
>
> And whereas, the General Assembly and the General Conference have each appointed a committee to consider this whole question, and devise, if possible, some plan whereby practical effect may be given to the principle of co-operation;
>
> And whereas, several joint meetings of the two committees have been held, characterized by the utmost cordiality and good feeling, and virtual unanimity as to the desirableness of avoiding unfriendly rivalry, and promoting co-operation;
>
> This joint committee having consulted with the Superintendents of Missions of both Churches, is of the opinion that a time has come when some definite attempt should be made to realize the wish of the two Churches as expressed in the resolutions of their representative Assemblies.
>
> We are all well aware that there are real and serious difficulties to be encountered, growing out of local circumstances, strong denominational preferences, and the rapidly changing conditions of population, especially in the Northwest, and that it would not be desirable to adopt a hard and fast policy, or to

impose arbitrary restrictions upon the natural and healthy development of church life. Nevertheless we are of the opinion that certain initial steps might now be taken which would test the principle of co-operation, and also have an educational value among both ministers and people. We therefore recommend :—

1. That a letter, couched in identical terms, be sent by the Missionary Secretaries, on behalf of the joint committee, to the Superintendents of Missions of their respective Churches, and also to the ministers or missionaries in charge of Home Mission Fields, setting forth the action of the General Assembly and General Conference, the views and wishes of the joint committee, and the expectation that they will co-operate in all practical ways to promote the end in view. We also recommend that the letter be published in the denominational papers of the two Churches concerned.

2. That the Superintendents of both Churches be strongly urged to keep the principle of comity and co-operation steadily in view, and to apply the same wherever practicable in the arrangement of the work. To this end we recommend that the Superintendents whose jurisdiction covers substantially the same field, meet together at intervals for consultation in the spirit of mutual helpfulness and ready concession, respecting the opening of new fields, or the possible readjustment of fields already occupied.

3. That where a field has been occupied for at least one year by one of the Churches, the Superintendents be recommended to act as far as possible on the principle of non-intrusion, having due regard to the promotion of the Kingdom of Christ and the interests of the two Churches.

4. That ministers and missionaries of both Churches whose Missions cover the same territory, in whole or in part, be recommended to consult, where it seems necessary or desirable, regarding a possible readjustment of their fields, when that can be done to mutual advantage, and report their views to their respective Superintendents, District Meetings and Presbyteries."

The letter referred to in the above resolution was duly issued, and in some cases very encouraging and gratifying results have flowed from the efforts of the Home Mission Superintendents to carry out the instructions therein contained.

In the meantime a definite proposal for the organic union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches had emanated from the Methodist Church ; the General Conference, at its quadrennial

meeting held in the city of Winnipeg in September, 1902, having adopted the following resolution :

"While this Conference declares itself in favor of a measure of organic unity wide enough to embrace all the evangelical denominations in Canada, and regrets that hitherto all efforts and negotiations have failed to result in the formulation of such a comprehensive scheme, so that at present the outlook for it does not seem practicable ;

Yet, inasmuch as the problem of the unification of several of these denominations appears to present much less serious obstacles, since their relations are already marked by a great degree of spiritual unity, and they have already become closely assimilated in standards and ideals of church life, forms of worship and ecclesiastical polity ;

And since, further, the present conditions of our country and those in immediate prospect demand the most careful economy of the resources of the leading and aggressive evangelical denominations, both in ministers and money, in order to overtake the religious needs of the people pouring into our new settlements, which economy seems impossible without further organic unity, or its equivalent ;

This General Conference is of the opinion that the time is opportune for a definite practical movement concentrating attention on, and aiming at the practical organic unity of those denominations already led by Providence into such close fraternal relations.

And whereas a definite proposal has been discussed to some extent in the press and elsewhere looking to ultimate organic union of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches in Canada, this General Conference, in no spirit of exclusiveness towards others not named, declares that it would regard a movement with this object in view with great gratification, believing that the deliberate friendly discussion of the doctrinal, practical and administrative problems involved, with the purpose of reaching an agreement, would not only facilitate the finding and formulation of a Basis of Union, but would also educate the people interested into a deeper spirit of unity and into that spirit of reasonable mutual concession on which the successful consummation of such movements ultimately so largely depends.

And this General Conference would further commend this movement to the prayerful interest and sympathy of the Methodist Church, in the devout and earnest hope that, if organic union of the denominations named be achieved, it may be accompanied with great blessings to the Church and to the nation at large and redound to the greater glory of God.

That a representative committee, to be composed of the General Superintendent, seven ministers and seven laymen, be appointed to receive communications on the subject of the foregoing resolutions from the Churches named, confer with committees that may be appointed by such Churches, and report to the next General Conference."

This resolution was submitted to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at its annual meeting held in the city of Vancouver in June, 1903, and by it referred to its Committee on Correspondence with other Churches.

This committee met on the 21st of April, 1904, in conference with the committees of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted —

"That this joint committee, composed of representatives of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, assembled to confer together respecting an organic union of the Churches named, would reverently and gratefully recognize the token of the Master's presence as evidenced by the cordial, brotherly spirit and earnest desire for Divine guidance maintained throughout the entire session.

While recognizing the limitations of our authority as to any action that would commit our respective Churches in regard to a proposal that is yet in the initial stage, we feel free, nevertheless, to say that we are of one mind, that organic union is both desirable and practicable, and we commend the whole subject to the sympathetic and favorable consideration of the chief assemblies of the Churches concerned for such further action as they may deem wise and expedient."

The finding thus arrived at was duly reported to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at its meeting in St. John, N.B., in the following June and to the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec and the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the months of June and July respectively, and the following resolutions were adopted by these several bodies :—

Presbyterian General Assembly.

"The General Assembly thanks the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada for its courtesy in transmitting to it a copy of the resolution on Church Union, adopted by the Conference at its meeting in September, 1902.

The General Assembly is at one with the General Conference in its desire to promote organic union among the evangelical Churches so far as this can be accomplished with due regard to all the interests involved, and especially the promotion of the

efficiency of the Church of Christ in carrying forward its great work at home and abroad.

The Assembly is gratified by the fact that the question of union between the Methodist Church of Canada, the Congregational Church in Canada, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada is receiving consideration by many in the membership of these Churches, and especially that the General Conference of the Methodist Church should have adopted a deliverance breathing the truly Christian spirit of the resolution which has been transmitted to the Assembly.

The General Assembly in response appoints a committee on Union with instructions to consider the practicability of such a union and to confer with the similar committees of the Methodist, Congregational and any other Churches, to report to the next General Assembly.

The Assembly prays that the spirit of truth, wisdom and love may rest upon the committees of these Churches in all conferences which they may hold upon the very important subject which they are appointed to consider."

Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec.

"The Union's Committee on Church Union with other denominations presented a report embodying the resolutions adopted at the conference in Toronto on April 1st, 1904. They recommended, and the recommendation was unanimously adopted :—

1. That the Union endorse the position taken by the joint committee.

2. That the Union appoint a committee to confer with the committees of the other denominations concerned in reference to a basis of organic union.

And, should such a union, in the providence of God, be consummated, we shall express the hope that it may be followed by a larger union embodying other religious bodies besides those mentioned."

Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"Whereas in the providence of God, for some considerable time past, certain interdenominational happenings have been making manifest the drawing together of three ecclesiastical bodies, of one of which we form a part ; and whereas the once distinctive theological dogmas of these three bodies, through the attrition of the years, have been ground to powder, making

it next to impossible for the uninitiated, in listening to sermons preached in the pulpits of those Churches, to tell unto which of three denominations the preacher belongs; and whereas, from widespread needy localities in the great West, and from the vast and desperately needy territories of the heathen world, an unnecessary wail goes up over precious missionary funds misapplied or misappropriated, all plainly pointing to the duty of laying aside every weight such as these, and the sin of sectarianism so easily besetting Christians, and which so sadly is retarding the coming of the glorious Kingdom of our Lord upon the earth, all of which and much more has been so ably presented by our retiring Chairman, Rev. Robert Pegrum, M.A., of Yarmouth, N. S.; therefore be it resolved, that the pastors and delegates of the churches of the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at our annual meeting now assembled most reverently co-operate with what we believe to be the moving of the hand of God in history, and most heartily concur with the action of our brethren of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, bringing our beliefs and convictions as far as possible at the present stage to a practical point, viz.: That at our present gathering we appoint a committee to work in connection with the committee already appointed by the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, whose duty it shall be to co-operate with the committees appointed by the Presbyterian General Assembly and the Methodist Conference, to arrange a basis of organic union, to be submitted later to our individual churches for their consideration and concurrence."

The Conveners of the Committees thus appointed by the three Churches decided that the first joint meeting of these committees should be held in Knox Church, Toronto, on Wednesday the 21st of December, 1904.

The official report of the proceedings of the Joint Committee, prepared by the Secretaries of the committee for publication in the daily papers, is hereto attached.

E. D. McLAREN.

Toronto, January, 1905.

Report of the First Conference of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Committees on Church Union

Held in Knox Church, Toronto, on Wednesday and Thursday, 21st and 22nd December, 1904

The committees of the three negotiating Churches met separately on Tuesday, 20th December, to consider the lines along which, in their judgment, the discussion should proceed when the three committees met together for conference.

The Joint Committee entered upon its labors on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, the Rev. Dr. Warden being unanimously elected Chairman. At his request the Rev. Dr. Carman, Convener of the Methodist Committee, and the Rev. Hugh Pedley, Convener of the Congregational Committee, took seats on the platform. On motion duly made and seconded, the Rev. Dr. Milligan, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was also accorded the honor of a seat upon the platform. The Rev. Dr. Sutherland was appointed Secretary, and the Rev. F. J. Day and the Rev. Dr. E. D. McLaren, Associate Secretaries.

The first half hour was spent in devotional exercises, and the whole proceedings were characterized by a spirit of the deepest earnestness. The magnitude of the difficulties that confronted them was evidently recognized by all members of the Joint Committee, and the conviction was repeatedly expressed that the cordial approval of the whole membership of the negotiating Churches must be secured.

The rolls of the several denominational committees were called and the following members were found to be in attendance.

Presbyterian:—Dr. R. H. Warden, Principal Patrick, Professor Bryce, Dr. J. A. Carmichael, Dr. F. B. DuVal, Dr. J. L. Murray, Dr. J. R. Battisby, Dr. J. Somerville, Dr. S. Lyle, Professor McLaren, Principal Gordon, Dr. R. P. McKay, Dr. G. M. Milligan, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. M. Macgillivray, Dr. J. Stewart, Dr. W. D. Armstrong, Dr. D. M. Ramsay, Dr. W. T. Herridge, Principal Scrimger, Dr. R. Campbell, Principal Falconer, Dr. T. Sedgwick, Dr. J. McMillan, Dr. E. Smith, Dr. A. F. Carr, Dr. E. D. Millar; and W. J. Clark, J. B. Mullan, W. A. J. Martin, J. H. Ratcliffe, A. T. Love, T. Stewart, J. Ross and G. S. Carson, Ministers; and Hon. D. Laird, Hon. C. H. Campbell, J. K.

Macdonald, J. A. Macdonald, J. A. Paterson, W. B. McMurrich, A. G. Farrell, W. Paul, Dr. R. Murray, and Professor W. C. Murray, Elders.

Methodist:—Dr. Cleaver, Dr. Rose, Dr. Sparling, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Heartz, Dr. Shaw, Dr. Carman, Dr. Potts, Dr. Briggs, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Crews, Dr. Burwash, Dr. Chown, Dr. Woodsworth, Dr. Huestis, Dr. Evans, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Curtis, Dr. Ryckman, Dr. Antliff, Dr. Crothers, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Ross, Dr. Williamson, Dr. Gundy, Dr. Langford, Dr. Stewart, Dr. Paisley, Dr. White and Dr. Young; and W. H. Langille, D. W. Johnston, Geo. Steel, J. E. Mavety, J. T. Pitcher, S. Bond, and F. B. Stacey, Ministers; and Hon. Justice McLaren, Hon. Judge Chesley, Dr. D. Allison, Dr. J. R. Inch, Chester D. Massey, N. W. Rowell, R. J. McLaughlin, J. A. M. Aikins, R. W. Harris, J. W. Flavelle, W. G. Hunt, C. W. Cate, Charles Bell, J. D. Chipman, H. H. Fudger, C. A. Birge, H. P. Moore, J. Ellis, W. J. Ferguson, John Mann, Richard Brown, and John N. Lake, Laymen.

Congregational:—Revs. Hugh Pedley, J. L. Gordon, J. W. Pedley, J. K. Unsworth, F. J. Day, W. T. Gunn, T. B. Hyde, Wm. McIntosh, and A. W. Main, Ministers; and Messrs. Henry O'Hara, T. B. Caldwell, and B. W. Robertson, Laymen.

A resolution expressing the sense of the loss sustained by the whole Church of Christ in Canada, and by the movement for organic Church union, in the death of the late Principal Caven, was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Carman, and adopted by the committee by a standing vote.

The Chairman gave a brief sketch of the history of the movement for Church union, concluding with a statement of the proceedings of the meetings held on Tuesday by the Presbyterian Committee, and submitting the following copy of the resolution adopted by that committee:—

> "While recognizing that the question of union must ultimately be decided in the manner provided by the Church, this committee agrees to proceed to-morrow to conference with the committees of the Methodist and Congregational Churches concerning the practicability of union, and recommends for consideration the following subjects: Doctrine, Polity, Training of the Ministry and Administration; and further recommends that after such conference has taken place the separate committees should meet and determine whether or not sub-committees should be appointed for the further consideration of the above-mentioned subjects, and that these committees report again to the joint committee."

Dr. Sutherland stated that at the meetings held by the Methodist Committee no formal resolution was adopted, but that a general conversation took place regarding certain points that would require to come up for consideration by the Joint Committee.

Rev. Hugh Pedley reported for the Congregational Committee that they had proceeded along similar lines, discussing the points at issue between the different Churches, not in a spirit of trying to see how much they could secure, but rather how much they could give to the other negotiating Churches.

The Joint Committee thereupon agreed to adopt the recommendation contained in the resolution passed by the Presbyterian Committee, and to consider the subjects of Doctrine, Polity, the Training of the Ministry, and Administration. The discussion of these topics occupied the whole of the forenoon and the greater part of the afternoon sessions, the interchange of views being very general and exceedingly frank. The whole discussion was marked by the utmost freedom, but was pervaded throughout by a spirit of kindness and mutual forbearance. It was then decided that the three denominational committees should meet separately at 8 o'clock to consider the advisability of appointing sub-committees, which should confer further on these various topics, and that the Joint Committee should reassemble the following morning at half-past 9 o'clock.

When the Joint Committee reassembled on Thursday morning the action of the various sections on the preceding evening was reported.

The committee of the Presbyterian Church reported their action as follows :—The committee in view of the statements made at the conference by the representatives of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, deem it desirable to proceed to the appointment of the sub-committees referred to in their resolution of last night, and recommend to the Joint Committee that there should be five sub-committees, to deal respectively with the subjects of Doctrine, Polity, Administration, Ministerial Training and Law.

The report of the Methodist Committee was as follows :—"The Union Committee of the Methodist Church, having had joint consultation with the committees of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and having met in separate session, would report to the Joint Committee of the three Churches as follows :—First, that we are of the opinion that while difficulties may present themselves to all of the Churches, there does not appear at present any insuperable barrier to the union of the Churches as suggested and promoted by our General Conference. Second, that, therefore, it is desirable under the direction of the Joint Committee that special committees be appointed on the various subjects that must be considered in this important movement."

The report from the Congregational Committee was as follows :—"The Congregational Committee beg to report that, in view of the fact that the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec and that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have passed a resolution in favor of the desirability and practicability of organic union, we are prepared to go forward in the effort to find a suitable basis of union, and would recommend that the consideration of the principles of the basis of union should first be submitted o a central committee."

It was decided to appoint a small committee, consisting of a minister and layman from each of the three Churches, to retire at once and draw up a list of sub-committees, assigning to each the topics that should be discussed by it, and determining the number of members of which it should be composed. The committee appointed consisted of Mr. Justice McLaren, Convener, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ross, Rev. J. K. Unsworth, Hon. C. H. Campbell, and Mr. H. O'Hara.

After some discussion it was resolved to appoint a Central or Executive Committee, to communicate with the sub-committees, to assign any such subjects as may not have been specially assigned, and generally to act for this Joint Committee between its sessions; this Executive Committee to consist of the Chairmen of the three union committees of the negotiating Churches, the three Secretaries of this Joint Committee, and the Chairmen of the sub-committees to be appointed.

The following report of the committees appointed to draw up a list of sub-committees was then presented and adopted :—

"Your committee, appointed to frame a list of sub-committees, define the limits of the subjects to be assigned to each of them and determine the number of members of which each shall be composed, as well as the relative numbers from each of the three Churches, beg to recommend :—

(1) That the number of sub-committees be five, and that the subjects allotted to them be as follows :

(a) Doctrine.

(b) Polity—Under this head are to be embraced the organization and government of the Church, conditions of Church membership and rights and duties of members, ordinances of the Church, including means of grace and forms of worship, and the relation of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies to the Church.

(c) The ministry—This topic is to embrace the training for the ministry, the pastoral office, including period of service, the rights and privileges of ministers and their relation to the doctrines of the Church.

(d) Administration—This shall include all the missionary, educational, benevolent, publishing and other agencies of the Church.

(e) Law—Under this head will be included titles to Church property, general and local, and legislation.

(2) That the three Churches be represented on each of the sub-committees in the proportion of two Methodists, two Presbyterians and one Congregationalist.

(3) That each of these sub-committees on Doctrine, Polity, the Ministry and Administration, be composed of forty members (sixteen Methodists, sixteen Presbyterians and eight Congrega-

tionalists), and that the sub-committee on Law consist of fifteen members (six Methodists, six Presbyterians and three Congregationalists).

The Joint Committee adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock, and the several denominational committees were called to meet at 2 o'clock for the purpose of selecting their representatives on these various sub-committees.

On re-assembling at 3 o'clock the names of those chosen were reported and the committees constituted as follows :—

DOCTRINE.

Presbyterian : —Principal Scrimger (Convener), Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Battisby, Rev. G. S. Carson, Dr. DuVal, Principal Falconer, Principal Gordon, Dr. MacKay, Dr. J. L. Murray, Principal McLaren, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Sedgwick, Rev. T. Stewart, Hon. W. M. Clark, Dr. Robert Murray and Mr. Walter Paul.

Methodist :—Chancellor Burwash (Convener), Revs. Drs. Carman, Shaw, Paisley, Langford, Curtis, Stewart, Antliff, Crothers, Ryckman, Revs. F. B. Stacey, D. W. Johnston and S. Bond, and Messrs. Ames, Ferguson and Mann.

Congregational : —Rev. Dr. Warriner (Convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. P. Gerrie, T. B. Hyde, Hugh Pedley, J. K. Unsworth and Messrs. J. R. Dougall and H. O'Hara.

POLITY.

Presbyterian :—Prof. Walter C. Murray (Convener), Revs. Drs. Bryce, Campbell, Farquharson, Herridge, Lyle, MacGillivray, Millar, Rev. J. B. Mullen, Principal Patrick, Dr. James Stewart, and Messrs. James Gibson, T. C. James, J. A. Macdonald, G. M. Macdonell and W. B. McMurrich.

Methodist :—Justice McLaren (Convener), Revs. Drs. Carman and White, Revs. Mavety, Steel, Crews, Griffith, Langille and Messrs. Harris, Inch, Fudger, Bishop, Bell, Aikins, Senator Cox and Justice Britton.

Congregational :—Rev. J. W. Pedley (Convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. L. Gordon, W. T. Gunn, W. H. Warriner, D.D., and Messrs. J. R. Dougall, T. B. Macaulay and H. O'Hara.

THE MINISTRY.

Presbyterian :—Principal Patrick (Convener), Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Carr, Rev. W. L. Clay, Rev. W. J. Clark, Principal Falconer, Dr.

Fletcher, Rev. J. Hay, Dr. Herdman, Rev. T. C. Jack, Rev. A. T. Love, Dr. Milligan, Principal Scrimger, Prof Dyde, Hon. D. Laird and Mr. J. K. Macdonald.

Methodist :—Rev. Dr. Ryckman (Convener), Revs. Drs. Henderson, Ross, Gundy, Cleaver, Williamson, Ross, Pitcher, Woodsworth, Potts, Heartz, Wilson and Messrs. Hall, Birge, Ellis and Chipman.

Congregational :—Rev. J. K. Unsworth (Convener), Revs. G. W. Ball, J. P. Gerrie, W. T. Gunn, D. S. Hamilton, Principal Hill, A. W. Main and Mr. B. W. Robertson.

ADMINISTRATION.

Presbyterian :—Rev. Dr. Somerville (Convener), Dr. Carmichael, Principal Forrest, Principal Gordon, Rev. W. A. J. Martin, Dr. Mowatt, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. McMillan, Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe, Rev. James Ross, Dr. Smith, Dr. Warden and Hon. C. H. Campbell, Senator McGregor, Mr. David Morrice and Mr. W. Whyte.

Methodist :—C. D. Massey (Convener), Revs. Drs. Briggs, Sutherland, Potts, Huestis, Griffin, Chown, Sparling, Evans and Messrs. Allison, Hunt, Ashdown, Gurney, Flavelle, Holmes and Denton.

Congregational :—Rev. Wm. McIntosh (Convener), Revs. J. L. Gordon, Principal Hill, T. B. Hyde, J. W. Pedley and Messrs. C. R. Black, T. B. Caldwell, M.P., and A. McA. Murphy.

LAW.

Presbyterian :—Hon. C. H. Campbell (Convener), Mr. A. G. Farrell, Judge Forbes, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, Mr. J. A. Paterson and Dr. Sedgwick.

Methodist :—N. W. Rowell, K.C. (Convener), Judge Chesley and Messrs. Aikins, Cate, Harris and McLaughlin.

Congregational :—Rev. J. T. Daley (Convener), and Messrs. Charles Cushing and S. P. Leet.

It should be understood that the committees above named will not be engaged at present in preparing a basis of union, but will meet together for further conference, to exchange views and ascertain whether it is possible to reach a common basis that may hereafter be submitted to the Churches concerned. In the meantime a statement giving the history of the movement to the present time, and the action thus far of the

joint committee, will be prepared and printed and a copy sent to each minister of the negotiating bodies, so that the Churches may be fully informed as to every step that has been taken.

It was universally recognized in the joint committee that a question so important and far-reaching in its results was not one to be unduly hurried; that a union of the Churches, to be real and lasting, must carry the consent of the entire membership, and that no final step could be taken until ample opportunity had been given to consider the whole question in the courts of the various Churches and by the people generally.

A. SUTHERLAND,
F. J. DAY,
E. D. McLAREN,
} *Secretaries.*